

The Better Way

Volume XXXIX, Issue 7

February 11, 2024

SPRING CHURCH OF CHRIST

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:00 a.m.
Worship.....10:00 a.m.
Afternoon Worship.....1:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:30 p.m.
(via Zoom Meetings)

ELDERS

David P. Brown
Ken Cohn
John West

DEACONS

Bret Bailey
J. D. Gunter
Eric Paluka

EVANGELIST

David P. Brown

SECRETARY

Sonya West

PHILIPPIANS TWO AND THE OLD HERMENEUTIC

Winfred Clark

One might think it strange that such a thing would be true. To some, the old hermeneutic would not be that old. In their thinking such would have come into being at a later time. But one might really be surprised how old the hermeneutic used by our brethren really is. When we speak of this method of biblical interpretation, we mean *commands*, *examples*, or *inferences*. Such is found in the Bible. Such was used by the Holy Spirit as He inspired men to write the sacred text. This is very evident in the second chapter of the book of Philippians.

THERE IS INFERENCE

There is absolutely no doubt about the matter of inference being used by Paul, the inspired apostle. This will become evident when one has the opportunity to read the first few verses of this chapter. In fact, the first verse. Note, **“if there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies”** (Phi. 2:1). Note the word *if* found in other places. Notice for example. **“What shall we then say to these things? if God be for us, who can be against us”** (Rom. 8:31)? There can be no question about God being for us. Thus, it would be, “since” it is the case God is for us. His is the same sense in which the word is used in Philippians 2:1. There is no question about certain facts. It is the case that there is consolation in Christ, there is comfort of love, there is fellowship of the Spirit. These are well documented facts or things that do exist. Since such is the case there are some things inferred. In this case you will find Paul showing the need for a certain **disposition**. He will do so in much the same way he does in Romans 12:1. **“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”** But what is the nature of this disposition? There is the harmonious disposition. Note what he will have to say. **“Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind”** (Phi. 2:2). Such cannot be gain said. He asked that they be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord and one mind. One can surely see the matter of harmony in this verse. But there is also the matter of humility. **“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves”** (Phi. 2:3). Lowliness of mind would surely portray a humble mind. But there is also inferred the need for one’s willingness to help. **“Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others”** (Phi. 2:4). One can see in this passage the desire to be helpful to others. With the disposition of humility will surely come the disposition to help others. All of this is surely inferred in the first four verses of this chapter. If there

are doubts that such is impossible; one can read the next verses. It is evident that our Lord demonstrated the proper disposition.

THERE ARE COMMANDS

One can read verses 12-16 of this chapter and such will become very evident. These commands will instruct one as to **duties**. **“Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling”** (Phi. 2:12). Can there be any question about the matter of obedience being commanded? Is there any question about the matter of obedience and salvation being related? Surely this is clearly seen in this verse. These are commanded to obey individually. Yes, they obeyed when Paul was present but now they are to be just as obedient even though he is not present. They are not only to obey individually; they are to do so carefully. It is to be done **“with fear and trembling.”** This means with holy regard and reverence. They are to be careful and concerned. Not only is obedience commanded, you will find distinctive lives demanded. **“That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world”** (Phi. 2:15). This responsibility to exert a godly influence is surely impressed upon these people. In the third place, there is the obligation to teach the truth. **“Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither labored in vain”** (Phi. 2:16). One translation would say, **“Hold fast the word of life.”** All could agree that one would not hold forth the word unless he held fast the word. Thus, they are guided by inferences and commands.

THERE ARE EXAMPLES

One can find these in verses 17-30. These will lead one to greater **dedication**. There are surely three examples cited within these verses. These will help one see some very valuable things.

First, there is the example of Paul. **“Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all”** (Phi. 2:17). Can there be any doubt about Paul’s willingness to give his life as a sacrifice for the Lord’s cause? Surely one can find here the example of sacrifice. What Paul would do would be by choice. But he would also give his life as a sacrifice joyfully. You will remember that he had told these brethren to **“do all things without murmuring and disputing”** (Phi. 2:14). He was

surely willing to practice what he preached to them; He would be happy to give all for the glory of God. We have seen this same kind of attitude before when he talked to the elders of Ephesus.

But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God (Acts 20:24).

There is also the example of Timothy. Such is described in verses 19-24. Herein one will find the example of sincerity. Here is the case of one who would think like and care like Paul. Here is the example of singlemindedness.

There is also the example of Epaphroditus. Note verses 25-30. Can there be any question about an example of service? This man almost killed himself in trying to do for Paul. Here is one that ministered to Paul’s desires. He would do this in spite of the fact that he was sick. He would do so in spite of the fact that he was not at home.

Yes, this chapter sets before us the use of *inferences, commands* and *examples* as it seeks to guide the brethren at Philippi into greater service for the Lord. I reckon the “old hermeneutic” is alright. Paul used it and we are in pretty good company.~

Deceased

THE “NOT-HOLE”

Author Unknown

When you order a suit, do you say, “Don’t send sizes 32, 34, 36, 40, 42? And don’t send cotton, silk, rayon, or leather?” Of course not! Instead you tell them what you want and that automatically eliminates the rest.

And yet people often do not understand this in religion. They say, “But God did not say NOT to use instrumental music in worship.” Or, “God did not say, ‘He that is NOT baptized shall be lost.’” Or, “He did not say NOT to gamble, or NOT to do the modern dances, etc.” No, that’s right—but he DID tell us WHAT He wanted (Eph. 5:19; Mark 16:16; Eph. 4:28; Gal. 5:19-24).

God tells us to **“abide”** in the things taught in the Scriptures (2 Tim. 3:14 ASV), and that **“whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God”** (2 John 9). Let us resolve to do the exact will of God without addition or subtraction—and without trying to pull anything in through the “not-hole”!~

Spring Church Of Christ

Contending For The Faith Lectureship



Lessons On Christian Living

February 24, 2024

9:00 AM: *Teach Us To Pray* – Weldon Blake

10:00 AM: *Exercising Your Christian Influence* – J. D. Gunter

11:00 AM: *Are You Being Fashioned According To This World?* – Jonathan West

LUNCH PROVIDED BY THE SPRING CONGREGATION

1:30 PM: *The Importance of Bible Study* – Bruce Stulting

2:30 PM: *Into Our Hands The Gospel Is Given* – Jack Stephens

3:30 PM: *Examine Yourself* – Jose Gamez

LECTURESHIP DIRECTOR: David P. Brown

ELDERS: David P. Brown, Kenneth D. Cohn, John West

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LIVE VIEWING @ www.churchesofchrist.com

A Study Of THE GOSPEL OF JOHN



Teacher:

David P. Brown

WEDNESDAY NIGHT
BIBLE CLASS VIA ZOOM

A Study In
THE MAJOR PROPHETS

Jeremiah Ezekiel
Lamentations Daniel
Isaiah

Sunday Morning Bible Class
David P. Brown

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.churchesofchrist.com

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- **Saturday, February 24th:** Spring CFTF Lectureship
- **Sunday, February 25th:** Monthly meal
- **Tuesday, March 26th:** Ladies' Bible Class
- **Saturday, May 11th:** Graduation Banquet
- **Saturday, May 25th:** Fish Hatchery Rd Lectureship (Part #2)
- **Mon- Wed, July 15th-17th:** VBS at Spring
- **Saturday, September 28th:** Fall Fellowship
- **Saturday, October 26th:** Fish Hatchery Rd. Lectureship (Part #3)

THOSE TO SERVE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024

Announcements John West
Scripture Reading Bret Bailey
Rev. 8:1-7

Song Leader Gary Blasingame
Prayer Stephen Cohn/Zack Nero (A.M.)
Ken Cohn/James Arline (P.M.)

Speakers David Brown

Lord's Table (A.M.)
(Luke 22:63-65)

Steven Johnson Gary Blasingame
Andrew Paluka Jonathan West

Lord's Table (P.M.)

Stephen Cohn Ben Gunter

Audio/Video Monitor Joshua West
Camera/Door Monitor Jonathan West

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024

(via Zoom Meetings)

Announcements Eric Paluka
Speaker Jonathan West
Bible Class Teacher David Brown

FOR FEBRUARY

Prepare Communion Mercier
Lock Buildings Blasingame
Prepare Bulletin Board TBA

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Zack Nero, Cynthia Jackson, Elnora Oxendine, Edith Young, Bernice Hastings, Charles & Ann Nero, Nathaniel Rimmer, Chuck & Nancy Verkist, Freda Smith, Noah & Glenda Hackworth, Orlinda Chumbley, Carmen Hardy, and Roelf & Janice Ruffner.

TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

What two tribes inherited east of Jordan?

Answer to last week's question:
Blind; Mark 10:46